

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dear members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

Good afternoon, my name is Isabel Guzman, I was born in Honduras and have lived in Hartford for 15 years. I am member of Hartford Deportation Defense and I'm in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS because it is a step forward to get what we really need which is HUSKY for the whole immigrant community, regardless of age.

My husband went to Charter Oak clinic and they referred him to UConn to a dentist because he had bacteria in his gums and needed a deep cleaning. Because of lack of insurance he didn't go through with it because they charged him over \$500 to just get some cavities fixed. He had his gums cleaned with a program that was offered to him but then he no longer qualified for the program and had to quit. Due to lack of insurance he could not continue. They told him he had to take care of himself because if he didn't continue with the treatment his teeth would fall out. This is very unfair, he is still young and this is only happening to him because of lack of insurance.

In my case, they have been calling me from the clinic to get a pap smear. But they tell me that I have to pay out of pocket because I don't have insurance. Even though I have to have it done routinely, I can't have it done until they can cover the cost in 2024 through a program. Between now and 2024-what can happen? This has to change because it is impossible for us to get to a health emergency because we don't have health insurance.

Please support S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS because it is important, but adults need health insurance too. There are many adults and elderly people who are suffering from illnesses and because of lack of medical insurance they do not have their medications. Just as children are valued, so are the lives of the elderly. And without the adults, there are no children either.

Thank you for your time,
Isabel Guzman